



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
EDMUND G BROWN JR., Governor

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## **California Victim Compensation Program Recovers Fraudulently Obtained Funds**

*Over \$21,000 in fraudulent claims recovered in investigation*

**Sacramento, CA** –A Los Angeles County resident has been ordered to pay the State back more than \$21,000 in fraudulent claims. Tito Ace Thomas has been ordered by the court to pay \$21,419.21 to the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP), after it was discovered that he submitted fraudulent claims relating to an assault he sustained in December 2008. CalVCP is the state program which helps victims of violent crime and their families with the emotional, physical and financial aftermath of crime.

“We take our fiduciary responsibility for the Restitution Fund very seriously,” said Julie Nauman, Executive Officer for the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board. “Funds fraudulently obtained belong to eligible violent crime victims and we will take all steps necessary to prevent perpetrators from getting their hands on this money, and diligently pursue the return of the funds to financially aid other victims.”

Mr. Thomas was beaten on December 31, 2008, and submitted claims for reimbursement of lost wages, counseling services, and medical treatment. CalVCP’s Office of Audits and Investigations initially became suspicious during a review of bills Thomas submitted. Mr. Thomas submitted multiple disability letters from his doctor claiming that his inability to work was a result of the assault. During the investigation, CalVCP determined that the disability letters, which brought Mr. Thomas payments totaling \$17,879.21, were forged. In addition, it was found that Mr. Thomas fraudulently received \$3,540 for psychological counseling. The culmination of the staff’s comprehensive analysis of Thomas’s claim resulted in enough evidence and supporting documentation to be transferred to the Department of Justice for a criminal prosecution.

On January 12, Thomas entered into a plea bargain and was sentenced to five years of probation with 180 days in county jail. He was ordered by the court to pay restitution in the amount of \$21,419.21 to CalVCP.

CalVCP compensates for monetary losses when an actual loss has occurred as a result of a violent crime. The program is dedicated to maintaining its integrity, and it makes every effort to identify any fraudulent claims and holds such claimants accountable for their actions.

For more information about CalVCP visit: [www.calvcp.ca.gov](http://www.calvcp.ca.gov)

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